

The Proposed Action

What is the Proposed Action?

- This HCP is intended under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to support the issuance, by the FWS, of a permit which would allow the “take” of federally-listed and sensitive species and/or their habitat resulting from otherwise lawful activities on non-Federal properties within southern Nye County.
- Currently, a “low effect” habitat conservation plan is under development by Nye County and the Town of Pahrump for the incidental take of the threatened desert tortoise and/or their habitat within the Town of Pahrump.
- The “Low-Effect HCP” is being prepared as Phase I in the development of a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) for the Mojave Desert region of southern Nye County.
- The key purpose of this HCP and the broader MSHCP is to achieve a balance between the long-term conservation and recovery of the natural habitats and species of plants and animals inhabiting the Pahrump Valley and Nye County, and the beneficial use of land in order to promote the economy, health, and well-being of the growing population within this area.

Potential Species to be Covered by the MSHCP

Species potentially occurring in Mojave Desert scrub, mesquite woodland, and desert riparian habitats within Southern Nye County

- Desert Tortoise
- Amargosa Toad
- Phainopepla
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Pharish Phacelia
- Pahrump Valley Buckwheat

Development of the Southern Nye County MSHCP will complement the existing Clark County MSHCP and draft Southeastern Lincoln County MSHCP under development

Proposed Covered Activities

- Development within Southern Nye County, including residential, commercial, municipal and industrial, and the proposed airport in Pahrump
- Utility and Infrastructure Development and Maintenance (i.e., solid waste disposal facility and public utilities
- Roadway Construction and Maintenance
- Recreational Facilities
- Existing Programs/Projects